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(54) **ZOOM LENS**

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G02B 7/10 (2006.01)
G02B 13/00 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

CPC **G02B 7/10** (2013.01); **G02B 13/009** (2013.01); **G02B 15/14** (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

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USPC 359/676, 703, 704
See application file for complete search history.

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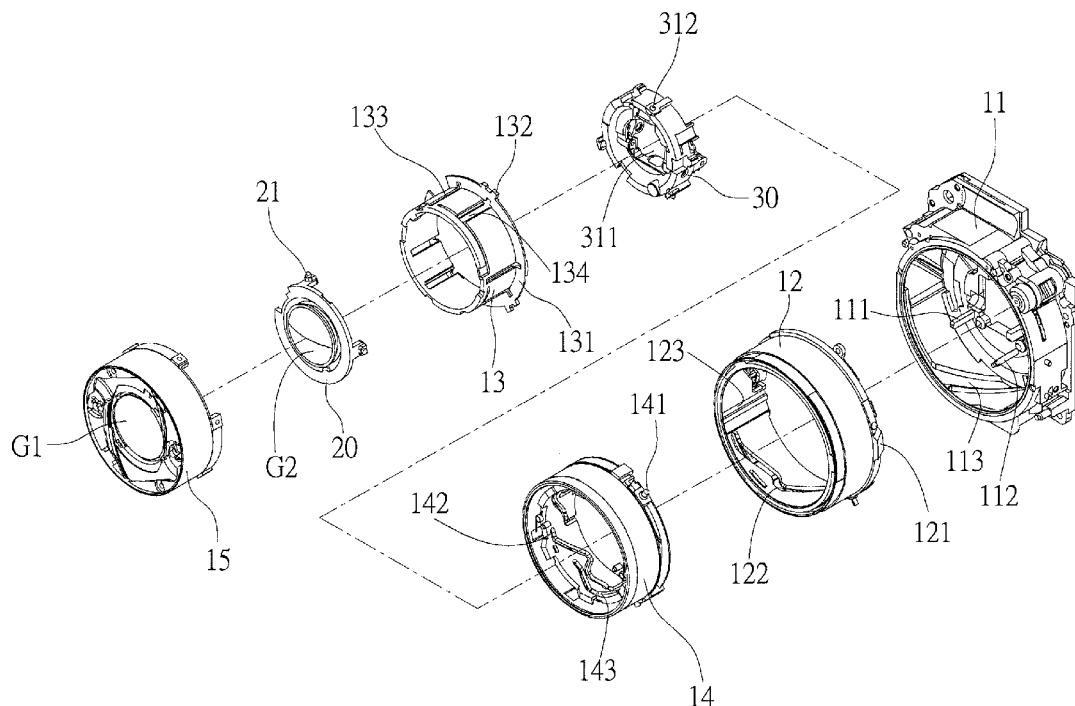
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A zoom lens includes a driving device, a zooming frame, and a lens group, wherein the driving device has a lens barrel. The zooming frame is located in the lens barrel, and has a body, a first lens holder, and a second lens holder which are pivotally connected to the body. The body is drivable by the driving device to reciprocally move between a first position and a second position. The first lens holder is respectively pivoted between a third position and a fourth position on the body along with the body being moved between the first position and the second position. The second lens holder is pivoted between a fifth position and a sixth position on the body in the same way. The lens group has a first lens sub-group provided on the first lens holder, and a second lens sub-group provided on the second lens holder.

20 Claims, 12 Drawing Sheets



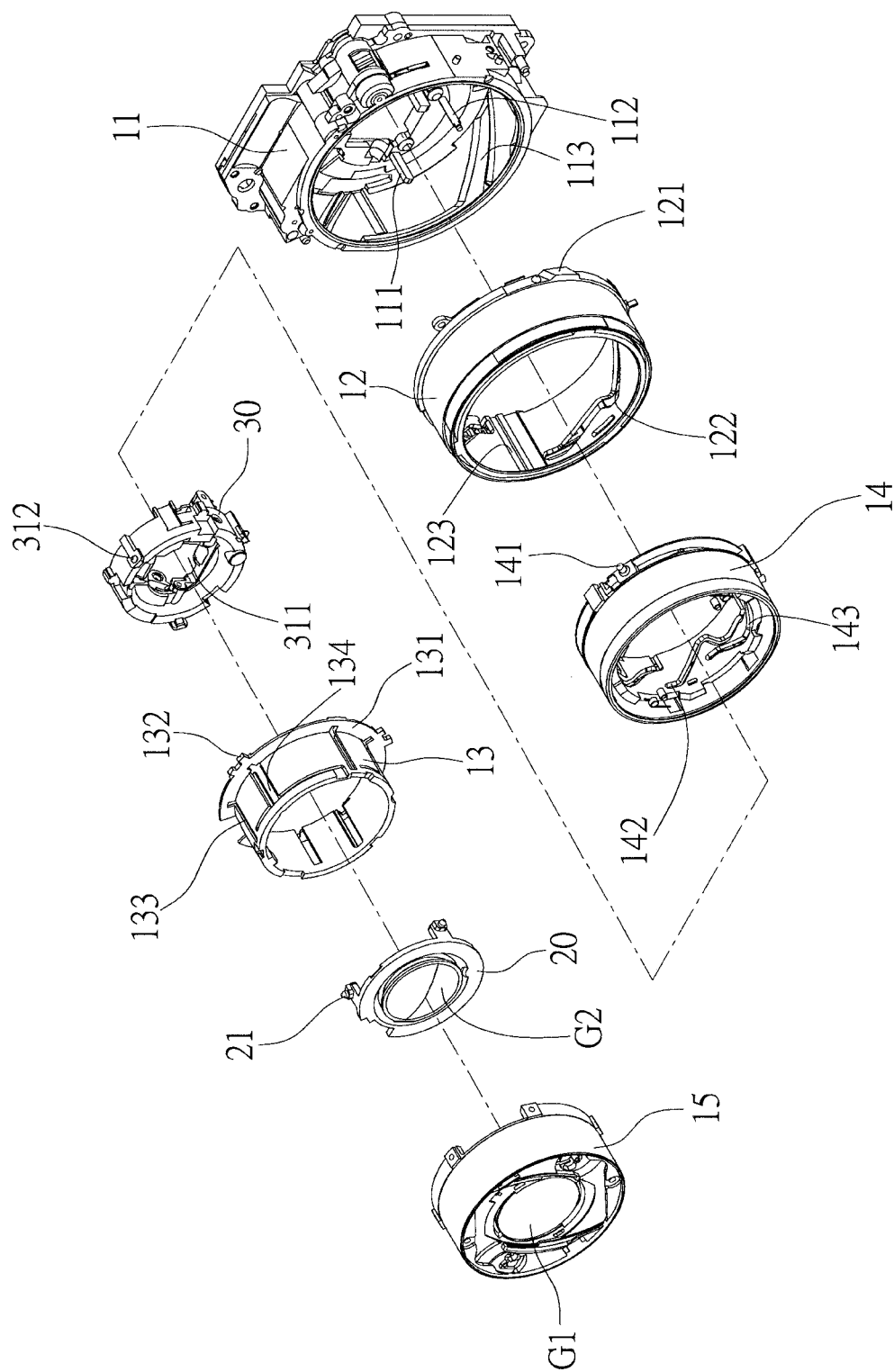


FIG. 1

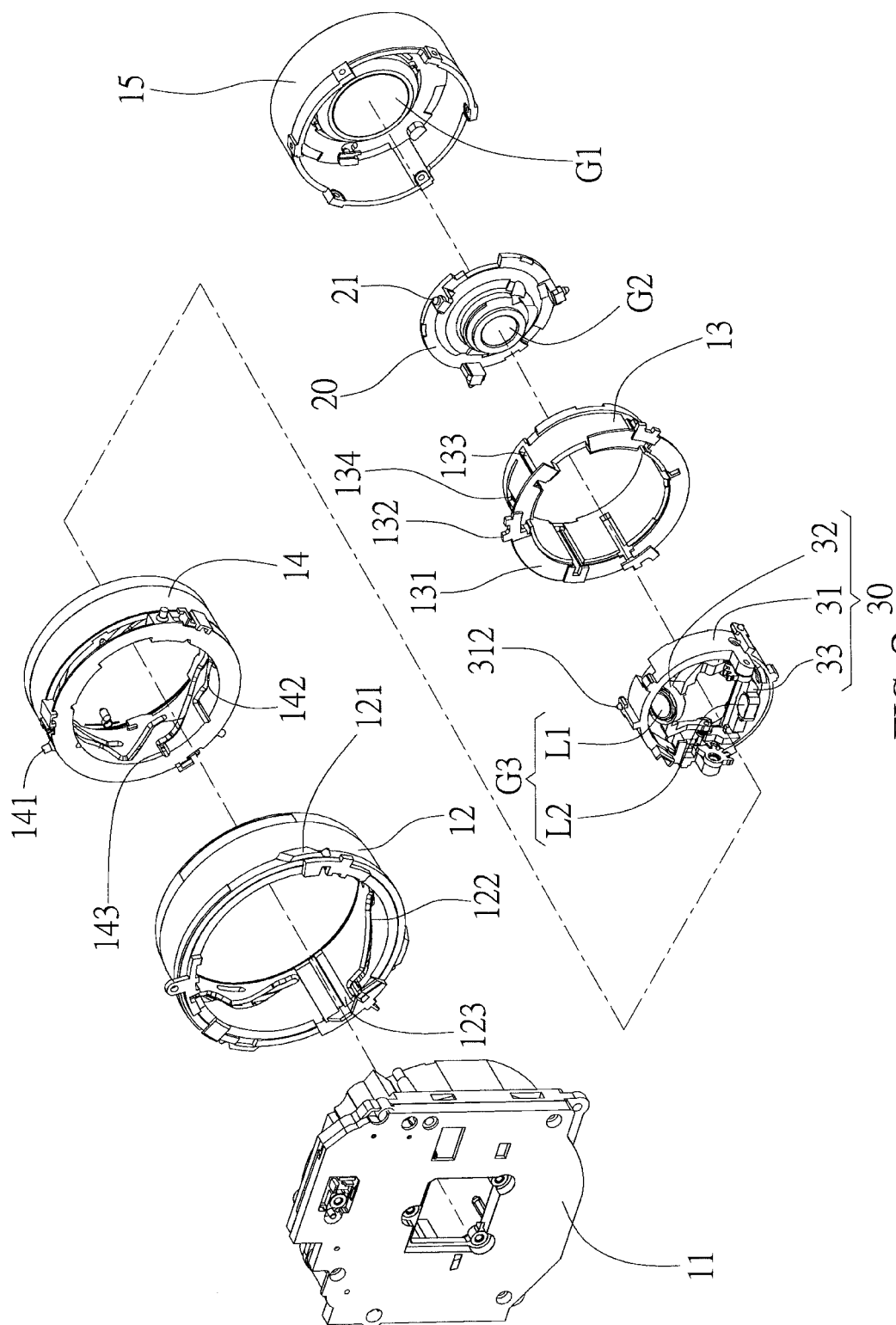


FIG. 2

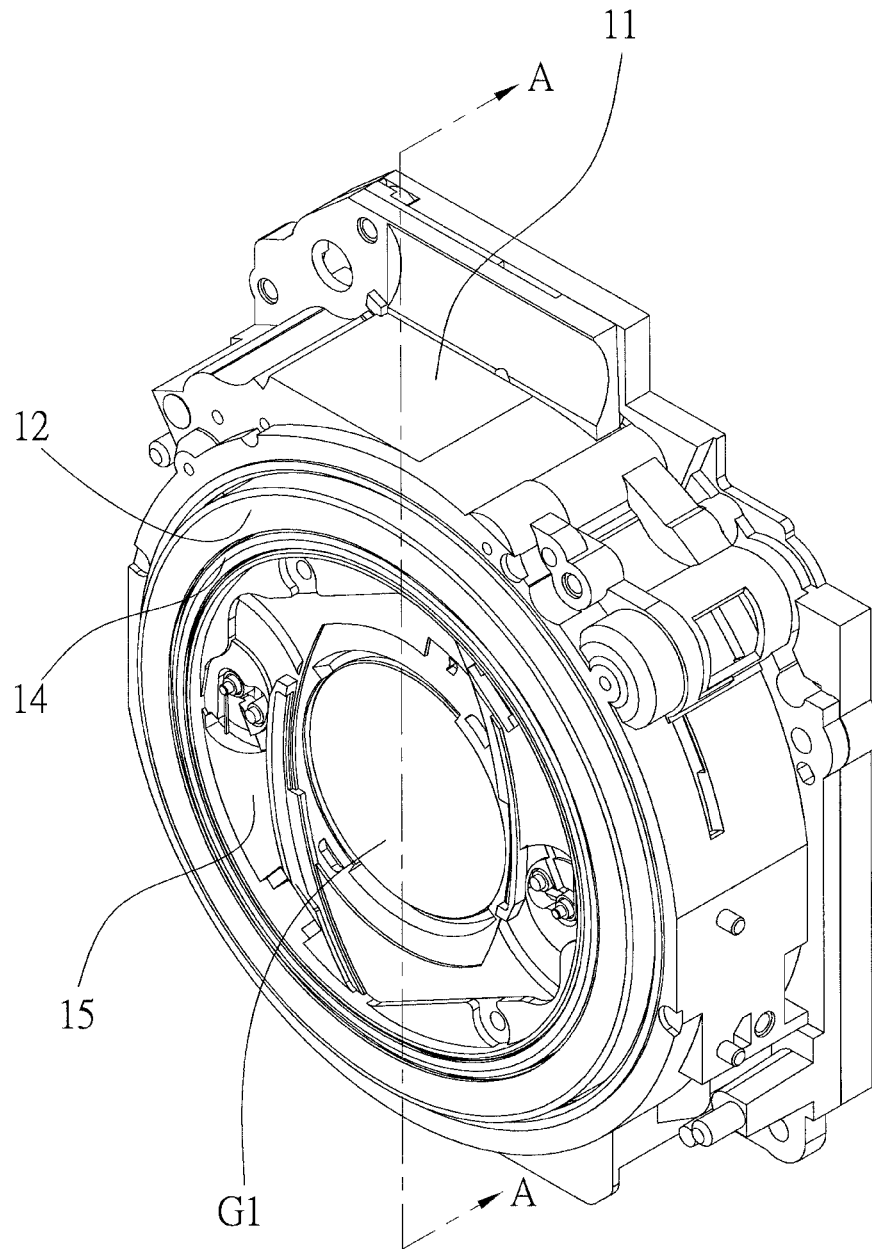


FIG. 3

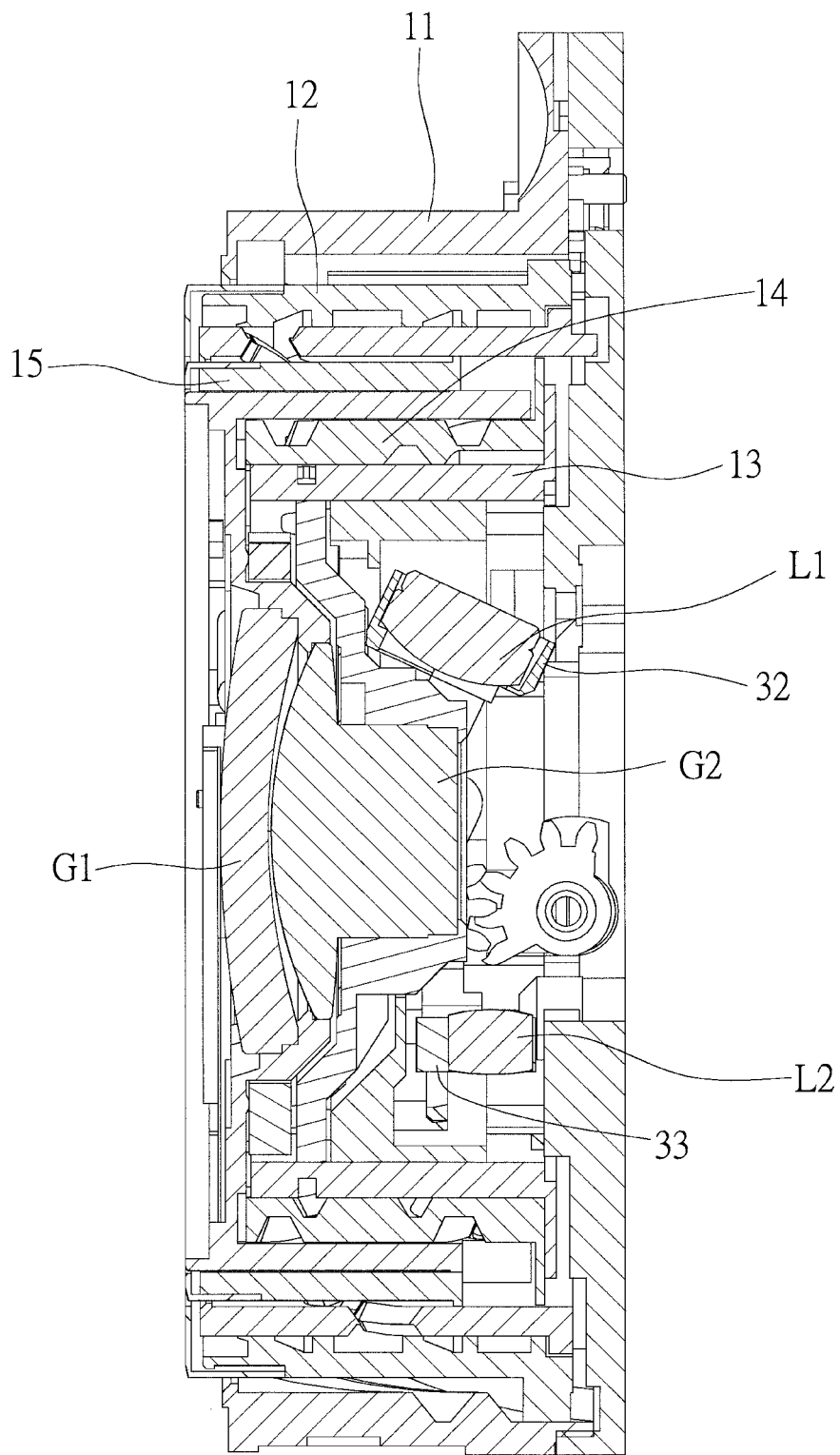


FIG. 4

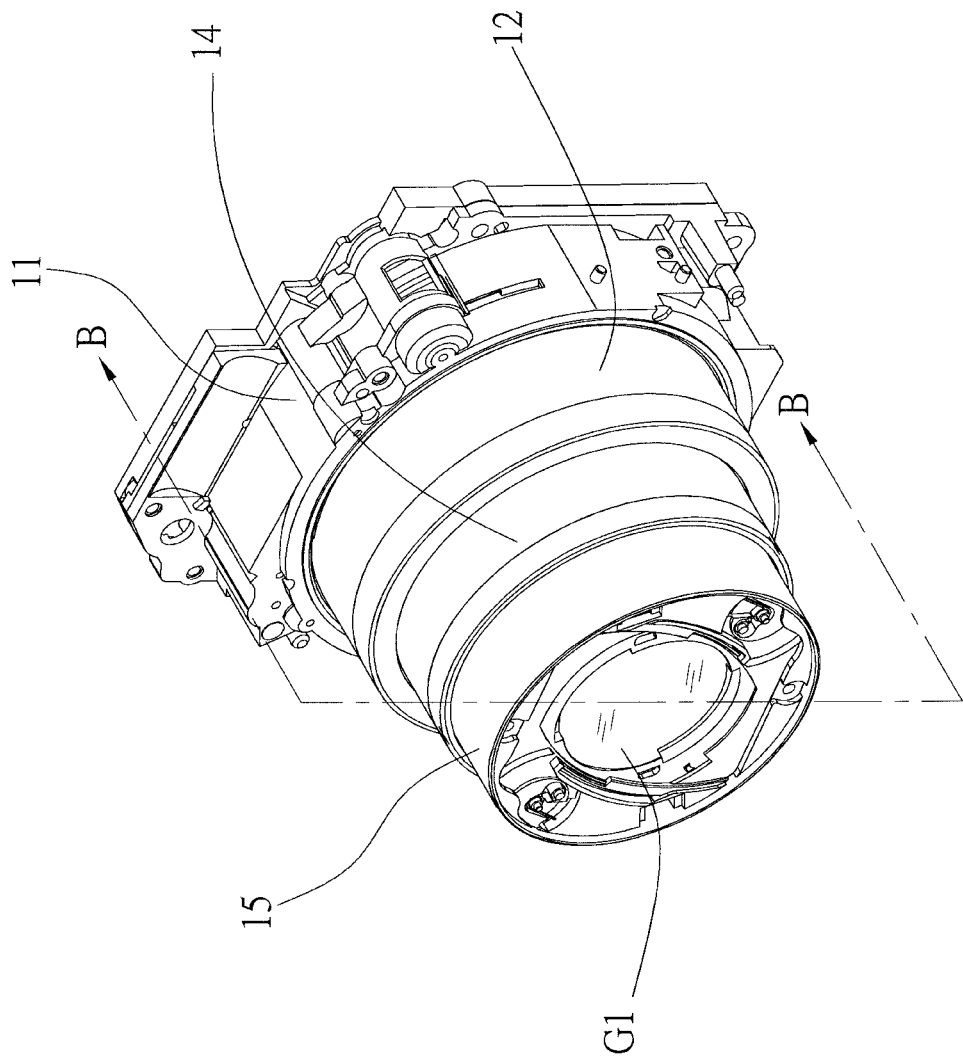


FIG. 5

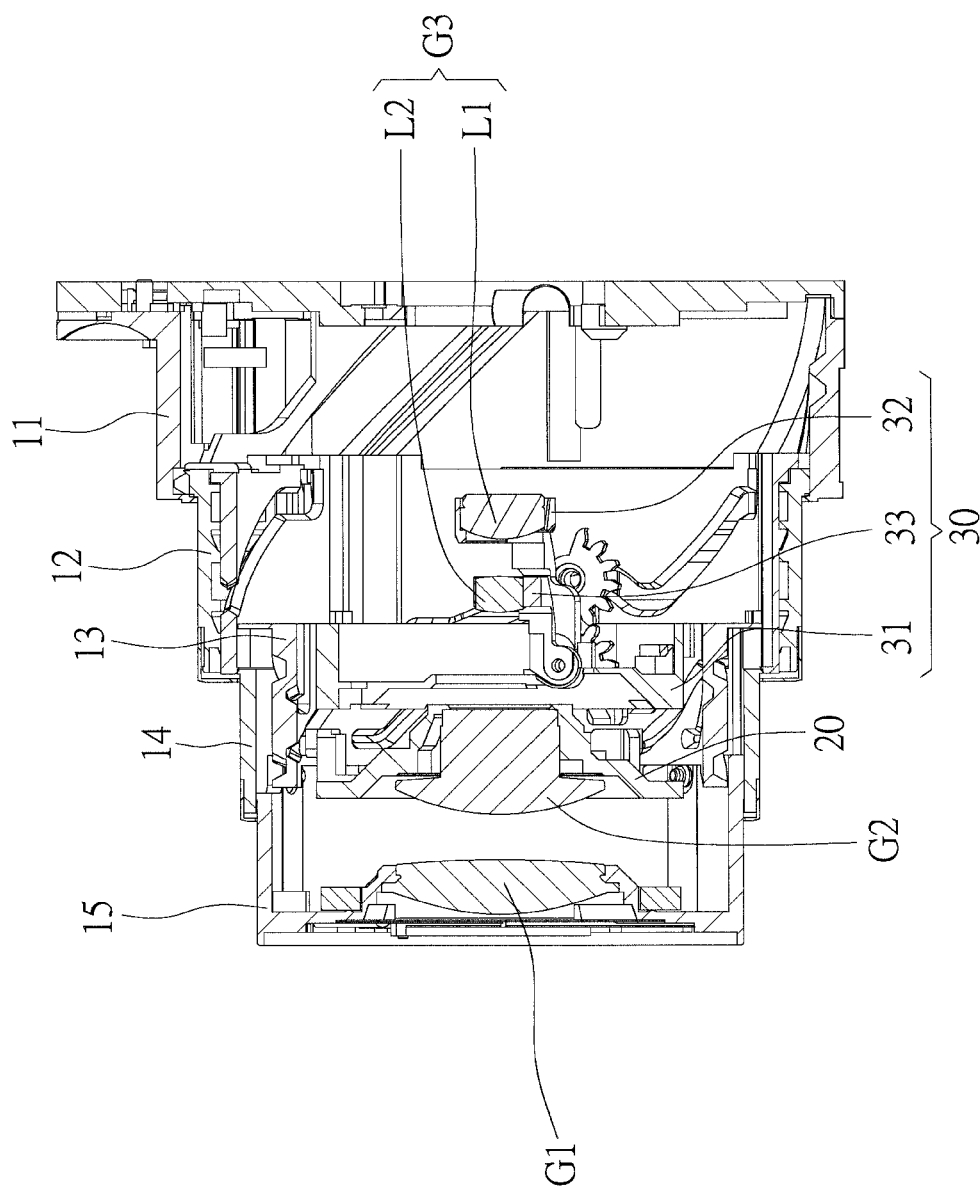


FIG. 6

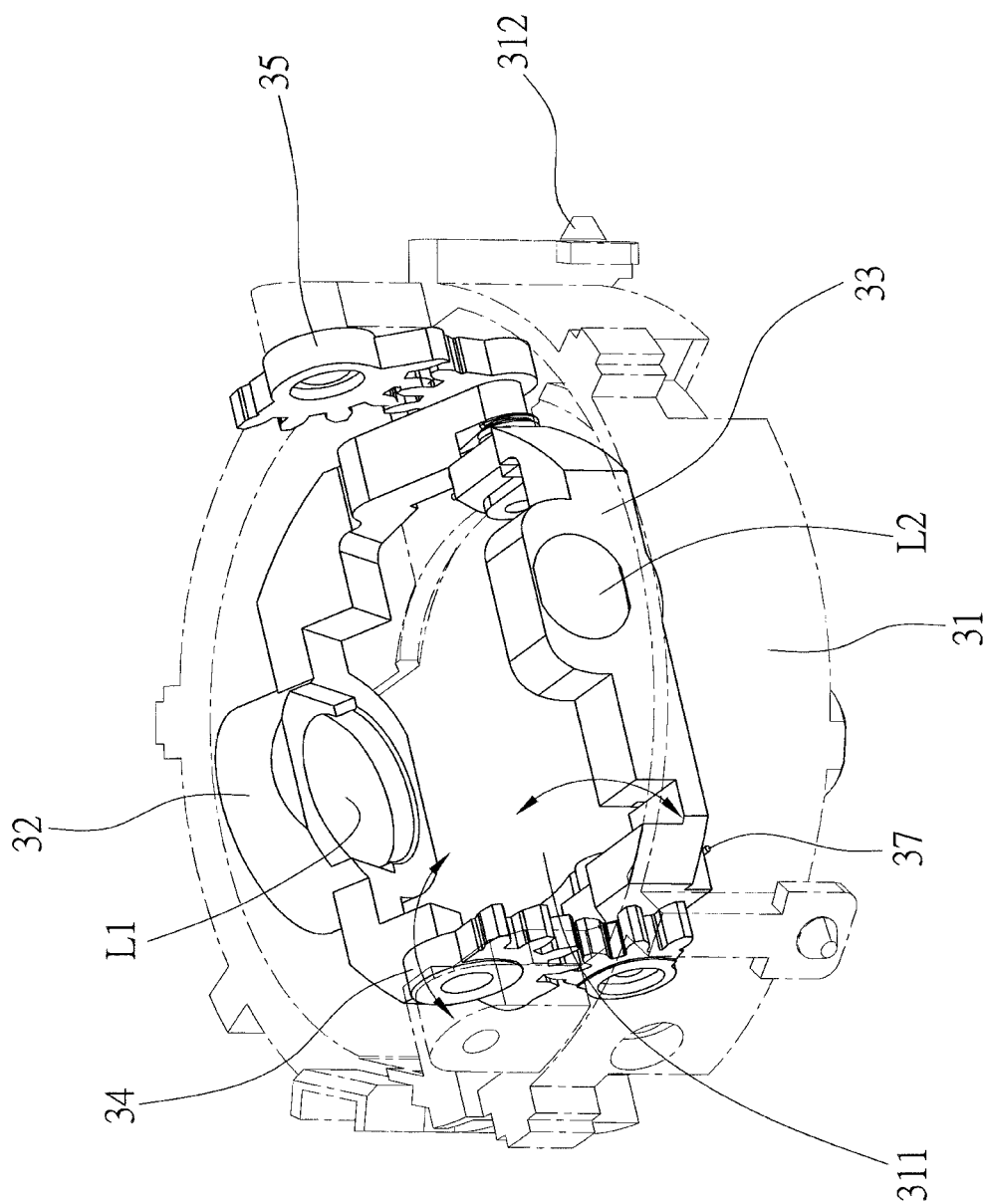


FIG. 7

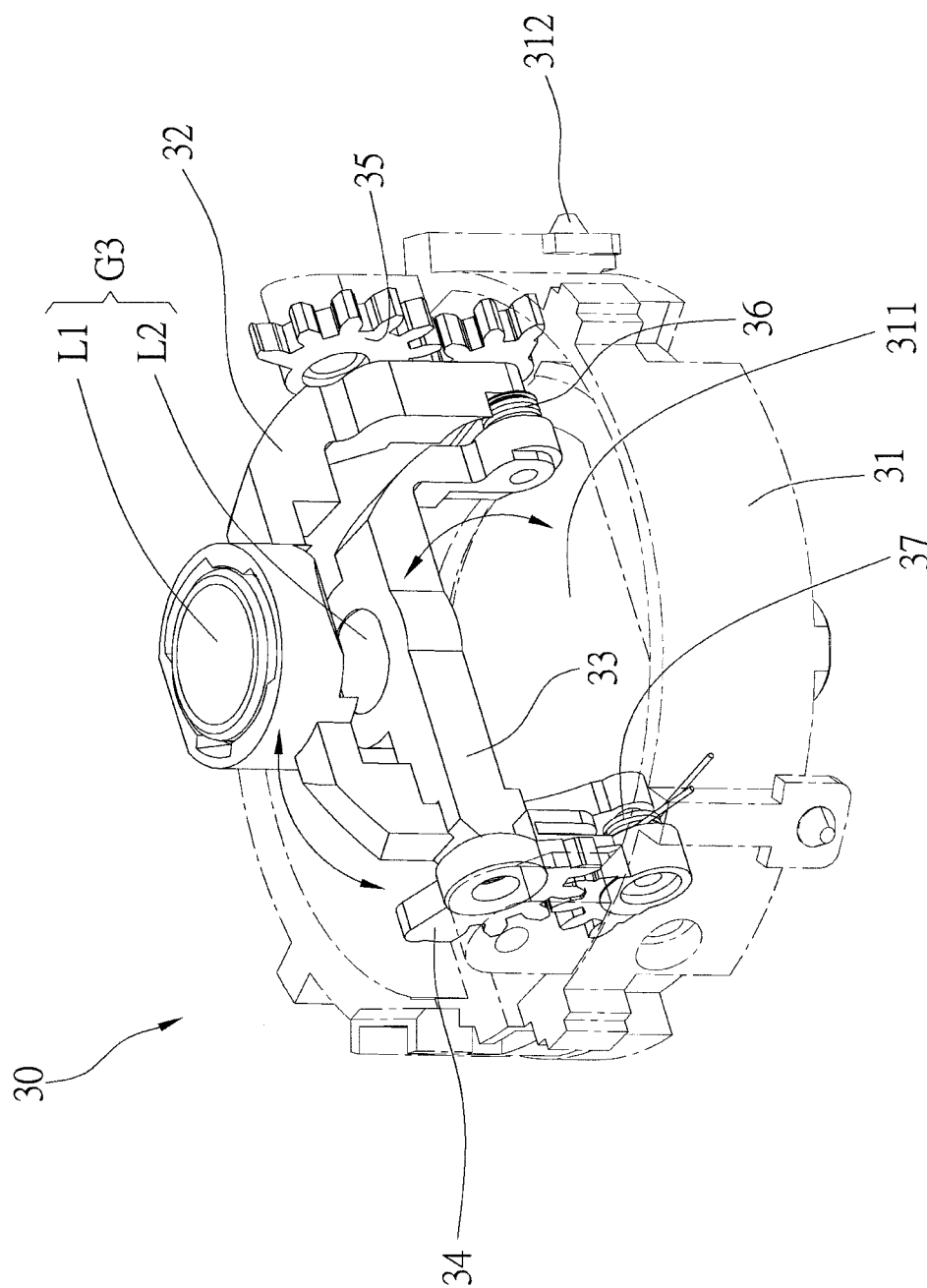


FIG. 8

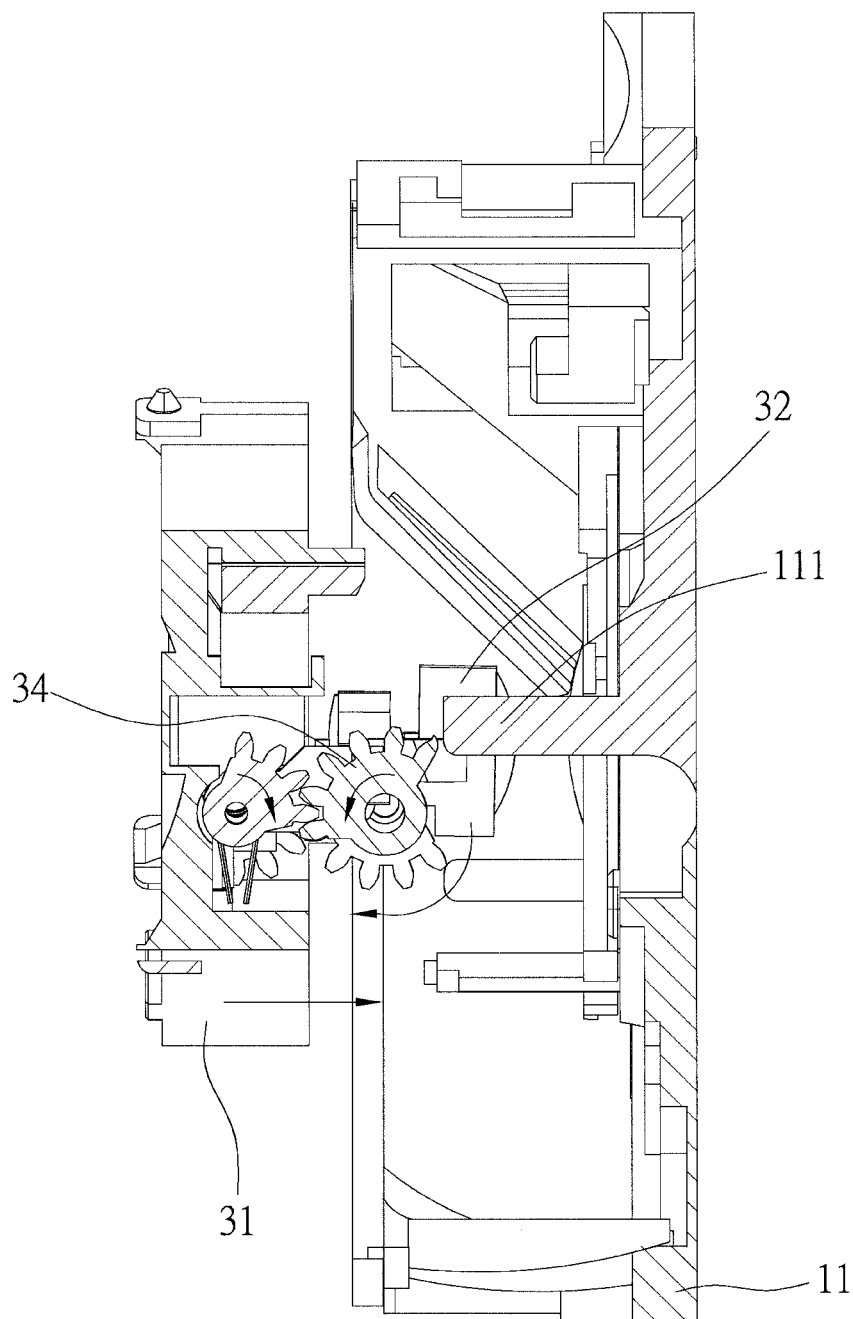


FIG. 9

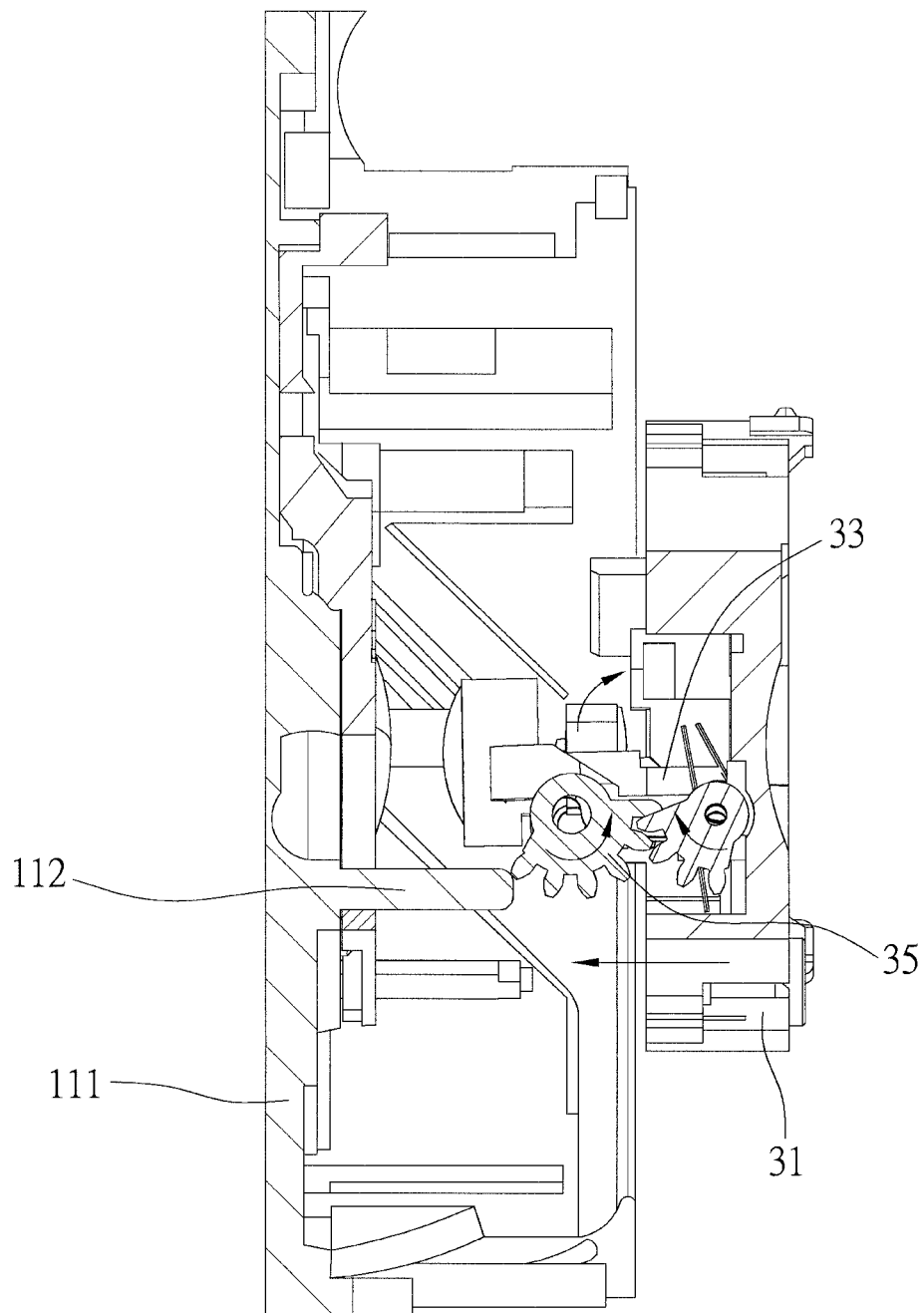


FIG.10

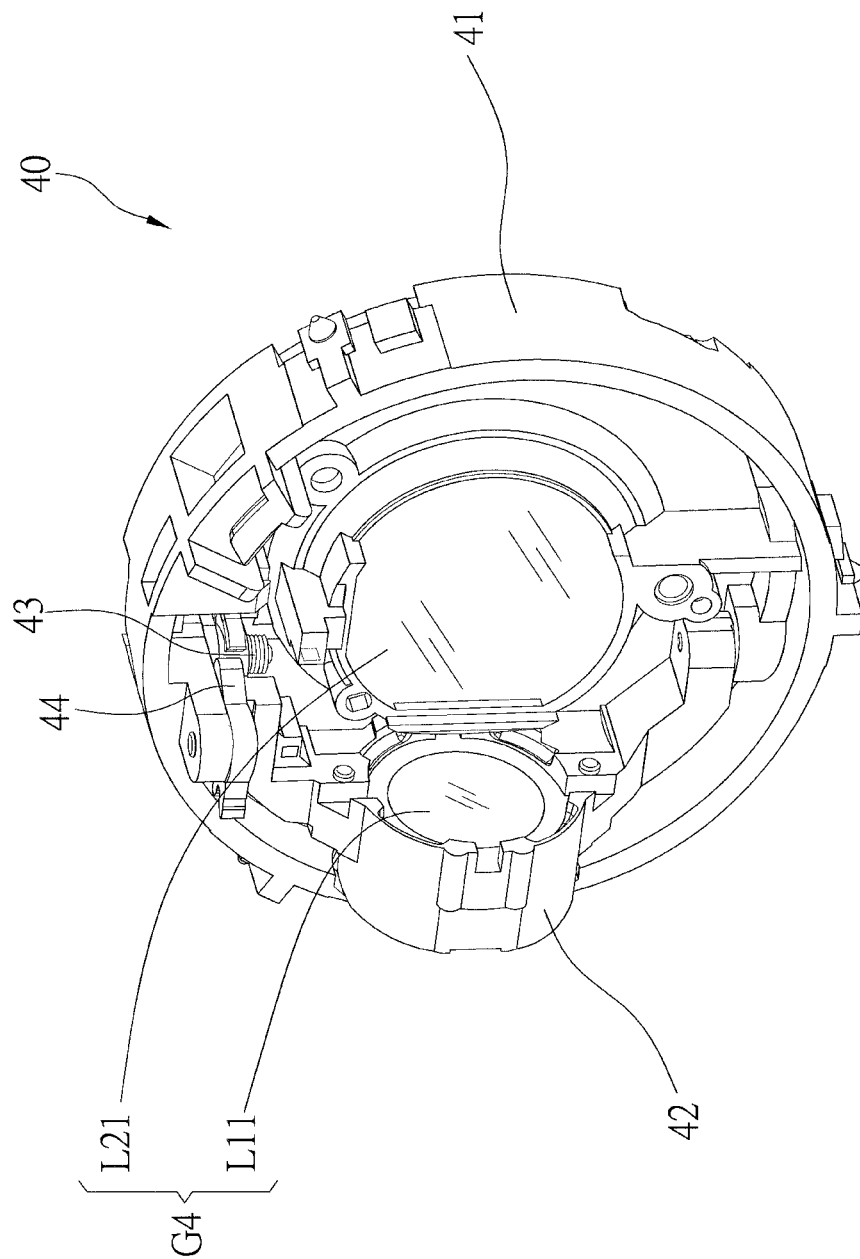


FIG.11

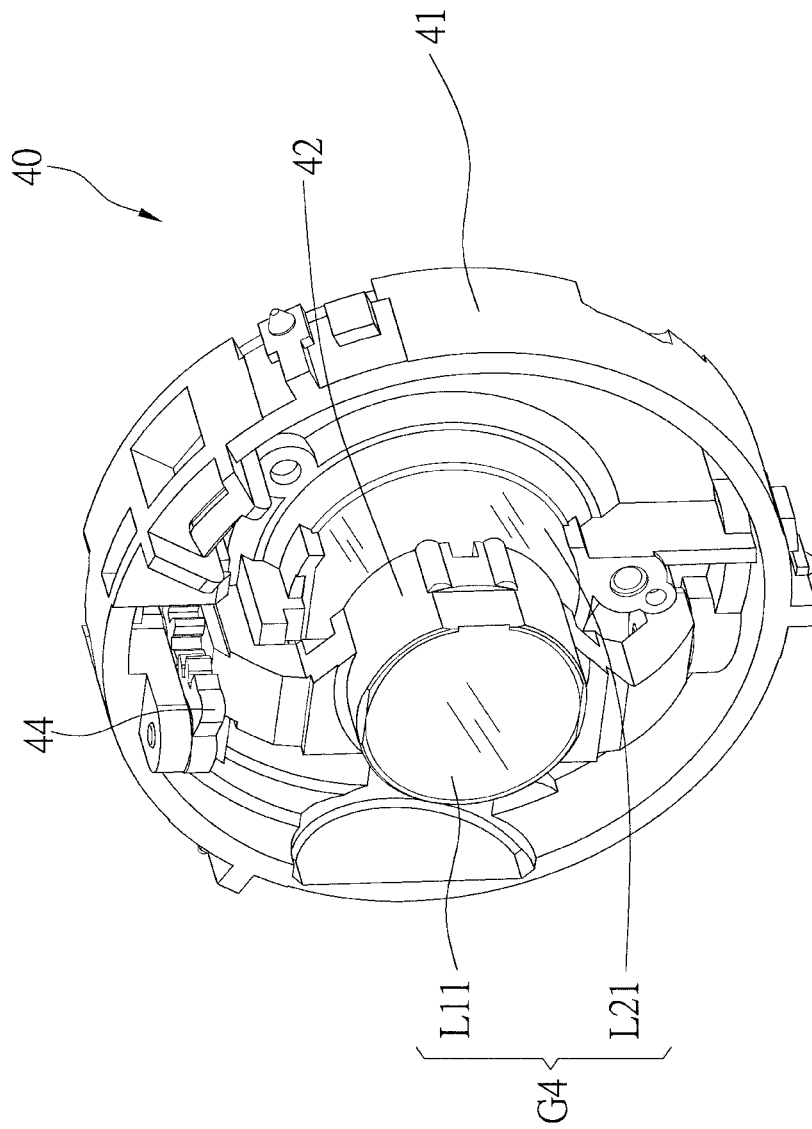


FIG.12

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ZOOM LENS

The current application claims a foreign priority to the patent application of Taiwan No. 103100434 filed on Jan. 6, 2014.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Technical Field

The present invention relates generally to optical lenses, and more particularly to a zoom lens.

2. Description of Related Art

With the help of recent advances in imaging technology, the size and weight of zoom lenses used in optical image devices, especially in portable ones such as cameras or camcorders, are greatly reduced. And while optical image devices are being made miniature and lightweight, the manufacturers would always try to improve optical performance thereof to provide higher resolution and better contrast. Obviously, miniature and high optical performance are two key design considerations for zoom lenses nowadays.

To achieve the above purpose of making miniature devices, some optical image devices are designed to have a collapsible zoom lens which can be collapsed into an outer case. However, the lenses in mainstream usually include multiple lens groups composed of many (even more than 10) lens elements in order to satisfy the requirement of high optical performance, and therefore such lenses are still too thick even after being collapsed. There is still room for improvement.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In view of the above, the primary objective of the present invention is to provide a zoom lens, which effectively reduces the thickness of the arrangement of the lenses therein when collapsed.

The present invention provides a zoom lens, which includes a driving device, a zooming frame, and a lens group. The driving device has at least one lens barrel. The zooming frame is located in the lens barrel, wherein the zooming frame has a body, a first lens holder, and a second lens holder which are pivotally connected to the body; the body is drivable by the driving device to reciprocally move between a first position and a second position; the first lens holder is pivoted between a third position and a fourth position on the body along with the body being reciprocally moved between the first position and the second position. The lens group has a first lens sub-group and a second lens sub-group, wherein the first lens sub-group is provided on the first lens holder, and the second lens sub-group is provided on the second lens holder.

The present invention also provides a zoom lens, which includes a driving device, a zooming frame, and a lens group. The driving device has at least a lens barrel. The zooming frame is located in the lens barrel, wherein the zooming frame has a body and a lens holder pivotally connected to the body; the body is drivable by the driving device to reciprocally move between a first position and a second position in the lens barrel; the lens holder is pivoted between a third position and a fourth position on the body along with the body being reciprocally moved between the first position and the second position. The lens group has a first lens sub-group and a second lens sub-group, wherein the first lens sub-group is provided on the body, and the second lens sub-group is provided on the lens holder.

Because the lens sub-groups in the lens group can be respectively pivoted, the thickness of the arrangement of the

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lenses in the zoom lens can be effectively reduced, and therefore the purpose of providing miniature optical image devices can be achieved.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWINGS

The present invention will be best understood by referring to the following detailed description of some illustrative embodiments in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which

FIG. 1 is an exploded view of a first preferred embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 2 is an exploded view of the first preferred embodiment seen from another view angle;

FIG. 3 is a schematic diagram showing the zoom lens in the collapsed state;

FIG. 4 is a sectional view along the line A-A in FIG. 3;

FIG. 5 is a schematic diagram showing the zoom lens in the extended state;

FIG. 6 is a sectional view along the line B-B in FIG. 5;

FIG. 7 is a schematic diagram showing the second zooming frame at the first position;

FIG. 8 is a schematic diagram showing the second zooming frame at the second position;

FIG. 9 is a schematic diagram showing the motion of the first lens holder of the second zooming frame while the zoom lens is transiting from the extended state to the collapsed state;

FIG. 10 is a schematic diagram showing the motion of the second lens holder of the second zooming frame while the zoom lens is transiting from the extended state to the collapsed state;

FIG. 11 is a schematic diagram showing the zooming frame of a second preferred embodiment at the first position; and

FIG. 12 is a schematic diagram showing the zooming frame of the second preferred embodiment at the second position.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

As shown in FIG. 1 to FIG. 6, a zoom lens of the first preferred embodiment of the present invention includes a driving device, a first zooming frame 20, a second zooming frame 30, a first lens group G1, a second lens group G2, and a third lens group G3.

The driving device includes a first lens barrel 11, a second lens barrel 12, a third lens barrel 13, a fourth lens barrel 14, and a fifth lens barrel 15. In the first preferred embodiment, the first lens barrel 11 is a stationary cylinder having a first rod 111 and a second rod 112 therein, and there are three guide rails 113 separately provided on an inner wall of the first lens barrel 11. The second lens barrel 12 is a rotary cylinder in the first preferred embodiment, wherein the second lens barrel 12 has three protrusions 121 separately provided on an outer wall thereof, and is positioned in the first lens barrel 11 with the three protrusions 121 respectively received in the guide rails 113 of the first lens barrel. The second lens barrel 12 can be driven by a motor (not shown) to rotate reciprocally in the first lens barrel 11 along the guide rails 113. In addition, the second lens barrel 12 has three first sinuate grooves 122 and three straight grooves 123 separately provided on an inner wall thereof. In the first preferred embodiment, the third lens barrel 13 is a straight barrel provided in the second lens barrel 12, wherein the third lens barrel 13 has a flange 131 at an end thereof, and three separate protrusions 132 respectively

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received in the straight grooves **123** of the second lens barrel **12**; therefore the third lens barrel **13** can be moved reciprocally in the second lens barrel **12** along the straight grooves **123**. In addition, the third lens barrel **13** has three first straight openings **133** and three second straight openings **134** separately provided on a wall thereof. The fourth lens barrel **14** is also a straight barrel in the first preferred embodiment, and it is located in the second lens barrel **12** between the second lens barrel **12** and the third lens barrel **13**. The fourth lens barrel **14** has three first shafts **141** separately provided on an outer wall thereof, wherein the three first shafts **141** are respectively received in the first sinuate grooves **122** of the second lens barrel **12**. Whereby, the fourth lens barrel **14** can be moved reciprocally in the second lens barrel **12** along the first sinuate grooves **122**. In addition, the fourth lens barrel **14** has three second sinuate grooves **142** and three third sinuate grooves **143** separately provided on an inner wall thereof. The fifth lens barrel **15** is fitted in the fourth lens barrel **14**, and can be moved relative to the fourth lens barrel **14**.

The first zooming frame **20** is provided in the third lens barrel **13**, and has three second shafts **21** separately provided on an outer wall thereof, wherein the second shafts **21** are respectively received in the second sinuate grooves **142** of the fourth lens barrel **14** through the first straight openings **133** of the third lens barrel **13**. Whereby, the first zooming frame **20** can be driven along with the fourth lens barrel **14**, and therefore can be moved reciprocally in the third lens barrel **13** along the first straight openings **133** and the second sinuate grooves **142**.

The second zooming frame **30** is also provided in the third lens barrel **13**, and, as shown in FIG. 7 and FIG. 8, includes a body **31**, a first lens holder **32**, a second lens holder **33**, a first gear train **34**, a second gear train **35**, a first torsion spring **36** and a second torsion spring **37**.

The body **31** has a hole **311** at a center thereof, and three third shafts **312** separately provided on an outer wall of the body **31**, wherein the third shafts **312** are respectively received in the third sinuate grooves **143** of the fourth lens barrel **14** through the second straight openings **134** of the third lens barrel **13**. Whereby, when the second lens barrel **12** is rotated by the motor and consequently brings the fourth lens barrel **14** to rotate, the body **31** is brought by the fourth lens barrel **14** to move reciprocally along the second straight openings **134** and the third sinuate grooves **143** between a first position (as FIG. 4) and a second position (as FIG. 6) in the third lens barrel **13**.

The first lens holder **32** and a second lens holder **33** are pivotally provided on the body **31**. When the body **31** is moved to the first position, the first lens holder **32** is moved to a third position (as FIG. 7) where is away from the hole **311**; when the body **31** is moved to the second position, the first lens holder **32** is moved to a fourth position (as FIG. 8) to precisely align with the hole **311**. In addition, pivoting directions of the first lens holder **32** and the second lens holder **33** are different, which are opposite in the first preferred embodiment.

The second gear train **35** is located at where the first lens holder **32** pivotally connected to the body **31**, and connected to the first lens holder **32**. The first gear train **34** is located at where the second lens holder **33** pivotally connected to the body **31**, and is connected to the second lens holder **33**. The first torsion spring **36** respectively pushes against the body **31** and the first lens holder **32** with two opposite ends thereof, and therefore the first lens holder **32** is exerted by a force from the third position toward the fourth position. Similarly, the second torsion spring **37** respectively pushes against the body **31** and the second lens holder **33** with two opposite ends

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thereof, and therefore the second lens holder **33** is exerted by a force from a the fifth position toward a the sixth position.

The first lens group **G1** is fixed on the fifth lens barrel **15**, and can be moved along with the fifth lens barrel **15**. The second lens group **G2** is fixed on the first zooming frame **20**, and can be moved along with the first zooming frame **20**. The third lens group **G3** is provided on the second zooming frame **30**, wherein the third lens group **G3** has a first lens sub-group **L1** and a second lens sub-group. The first lens sub-group **L1** is provided on the first lens holder **32**, while the second lens sub-group **L2** is provided on the second lens holder **33**.

Whereby, when the second lens barrel **12** is driven to rotate by the motor, the second lens barrel **12** is moved along the guide rails **113**. Consequently, the fourth lens barrel **14** is moved along the first sinuate groove **122**, and therefore the fifth lens barrel **15** is moved toward or away from the first lens barrel **11**. In more details, the first zooming frame **20** is guided by the second sinuate grooves **142** and therefore moved along the first straight holes **133**, while the body **31** of the second zooming frame **30** is guided by the second straight holes **134** and therefore reciprocally moved between the first position and the second position. As a result, the zoom lens is able to transit between a collapsed state (as shown in FIG. 3) and an extended state (as shown in FIG. 5).

In this way, when the zoom lens transits from the collapsed state (as FIG. 3 and FIG. 4) to the extended state (as FIG. 5 and FIG. 6), the body **31** of the second zooming frame **30** is moved from the first position toward the second position. At this time, the first lens holder **32** is exerted by the force of the first torsion spring **36**, and therefore pivoted from the third position toward the fourth position; the second lens holder **33** is exerted by the force of the second torsion spring **37**, and therefore pivoted from the fifth position toward the sixth position. Consequently, the first lens sub-group **L1** and the second lens sub-group **L2** of the third lens group **G3** precisely align with the hole **311**, and therefore the third lens group **G3**, the second lens group **G2**, and the first lens group **G1** are arranged in a straight line. After that, a focal length of the zoom lens can be adjusted by respectively moving the first zooming frame **20** and the second zooming frame **30** in the third lens barrel **13**.

On the contrary, when the zoom lens transits from the extended state (as FIG. 5 and FIG. 6) to the collapsed state (as FIG. 3 and FIG. 4), the body **31** of the second zooming frame **30** is driven to gradually move from the second position toward the first position. At this time, as shown in FIG. 9, the first rod **111** of the first lens barrel **11** pushes and turns the first gear train **34** to pivot the second lens holder **33** from the sixth position back to the fifth position. The second lens holder **33** then stays at the fifth position because the first rod **111** presses against the first gear train **34** to prevent it from turning backwardly. On the other side, as shown in FIG. 10, the second rod **112** of the first lens barrel **11** pushes and turns the second gear train **35** to pivot the first lens holder **32** from the fourth position back to the third position. The first lens holder **32** then stays at the third position because the second rod **112** presses against the second gear train **35** to prevent it from turning backwardly.

With the aforementioned design, when the zoom lens is at the collapsed state, the lens sub-groups **L1**, **L2** of the third lens group **G3** are staggered by pivoting the first lens holder **32** and the second lens holder **33**, which effectively reduces a thickness of the zoom lens.

In addition, if the third lens group **G3** includes more lenses, some lenses can be divided into a third lens sub-group to be located in the hole **311** of the body **31**, and the thickness of the zoom lens can be still reduced in this way. Furthermore, as

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shown in FIG. 11 and FIG. 12, an alternative zooming frame 40 included in a zoom lens of the second preferred embodiment of the present invention has a body 41, a lens holder 42, a torsion spring 43, and a gear train 44, wherein the lens group G4 is divided into a first lens sub-group L11 and a second lens sub-group L21 respectively provided on the lens holder 42 and a hole 411 of the body 41. Whereby, when the body 41 is moved between the first position and the second position, the torsion spring 43 and the gear train 44 brings the lens holder 42 to pivot between a third position (as shown in FIG. 11) and a fourth position (as shown in FIG. 12). Thus, the lens sub-groups L11, L21 are staggered when the zoom lens is at the collapsed state, and therefore the thickness of the zoom lens is reduced as well.

It must be pointed out that the embodiments described above are only some preferred embodiments of the present invention. All equivalent structures which employ the concepts disclosed in this specification and the appended claims should fall within the scope of the present invention.

What is claimed is:

1. A zoom lens, comprising:
 - a driving device having at least one lens barrel;
 - a zooming frame located in the lens barrel, wherein the zooming frame has a body, a first lens holder, and a second lens holder which are pivotally connected to the body; the body is drivable by the driving device to be reciprocally moved between a first position and a second position; the first lens holder is pivoted between a third position and a fourth position on the body along with the body being reciprocally moved between the first position and the second position; and
 - a lens group having a first lens sub-group and a second lens sub-group, wherein the first lens sub-group is provided on the first lens holder, and the second lens sub-group is provided on the second lens holder.
2. The zoom lens of claim 1, wherein the body of the zooming frame has a hole thereon; when the first lens holder is at the third position, the first lens sub-group is away from the hole; when the first lens holder is at the fourth position, the first lens sub-group precisely aligns with the hole.
3. The zoom lens of claim 1, further comprising a torsion spring, which respectively pushes against the body and the first lens holder with two opposite ends thereof, wherein the first lens holder is therefore exerted by a force to pivot from the third position toward the fourth position.
4. The zoom lens of claim 1, wherein the driving device further has a rod; the zooming frame has a gear train provided at where the first lens holder pivotally connected to the body; when the body of the zooming frame is moved from the second position to the first position, the rod pushes and turns the gear train to pivot the first lens holder from the fourth position back to the third position, and the first lens holder then stays at the third position.
5. The zoom lens of claim 1, wherein the driving device includes a first lens barrel, a second lens barrel, a third lens barrel, a fourth lens barrel, and a fifth lens barrel; the second lens barrel is provided in the first lens barrel, and is rotatable in the first lens barrel; the third lens barrel is provided in the second lens barrel, and is reciprocally movable in the second lens barrel; the fourth lens barrel is provided in the second lens barrel between the second lens barrel and the third lens barrel, and is reciprocally movable in the second lens barrel; the fifth lens barrel is provided in the fourth lens barrel, and is movable relative to the fourth lens barrel; the zooming frame is provided in the third lens barrel; the body of the zooming

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frame is reciprocally moved between the first position and the second position along with the second lens barrel being rotated.

6. The zoom lens of claim 5, further comprising another zooming frame provided in the third lens barrel, wherein the another zooming frame is drivable by the fourth lens barrel to be reciprocally moved in the third lens barrel.

7. The zoom lens of claim 1, wherein the second lens holder is pivoted between a fifth position and a sixth position on the body along with the body being reciprocally moved between the first position and the second position.

8. The zoom lens of claim 7, the body of the zooming frame has a hole thereon; when the first lens holder and the second lens holder are respectively at the third position and the fifth position, the first lens sub-group and the second lens sub-group are away from the hole; when the first lens holder and the second lens holder are respectively at the fourth position and the sixth position, the first lens sub-group and the second lens sub-group precisely align with the hole.

9. The zoom lens of claim 8, wherein the lens group further includes a third lens sub-group provided on the body of the zooming frame and at the hole.

10. The zoom lens of claim 7, wherein pivoting directions of the first lens holder and the second lens holder are different.

11. The zoom lens of claim 10, wherein the pivoting directions of the first lens holder and the second lens holder are opposite.

12. The zoom lens of claim 7, further comprising a first torsion spring and a second torsion spring, wherein the first torsion spring respectively pushes against the body and the first lens holder with two opposite ends thereof, and the first lens holder is therefore exerted by a force to pivot from the third position to the fourth position; the second torsion spring respectively pushes against the body and the second lens holder with two opposite ends thereof, and therefore the second lens holder is exerted by a force to pivot from the fifth position to the sixth position.

13. The zoom lens of claim 7, wherein the driving device further has a first rod and a second rod; the zooming frame has a first gear train provided at where the first lens holder pivotally connected to the body, and a second gear train provided at where the second lens holder pivotally connected to the body; when the body of the zooming frame is moved from the second position to the first position, the first rod pushes and turns the first gear train to pivot the first lens holder from the fourth position back to the third position, at where the first lens holder then stays, and the second rod pushes and turns the second gear train to pivot the second lens holder from the sixth position back to the fifth position, at where the second lens holder then stays.

14. The zoom lens of claim 7, wherein the driving device includes a first lens barrel, a second lens barrel, a third lens barrel, a fourth lens barrel, and a fifth lens barrel; the second lens barrel is provided in the first lens barrel, and is rotatable in the first lens barrel; the third lens barrel is provided in the second lens barrel, and is reciprocally movable in the second lens barrel; the fourth lens barrel is provided in the second lens barrel between the second lens barrel and the third lens barrel, and is reciprocally movable in the second lens barrel; the fifth lens barrel is provided in the fourth lens barrel, and is movable relative to the fourth lens barrel; the zooming frame is provided in the third lens barrel; the body of the zooming frame is reciprocally moved between the first position and the second position along with the second lens barrel being rotated.

15. The zoom lens of claim 14, further comprising another zooming frame provided in the third lens barrel, wherein the

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another zooming frame is drivable by the fourth lens barrel to be reciprocally moved in the third lens barrel.

16. A zoom lens, comprising:

a driving device having at least a lens barrel;

a zooming frame located in the lens barrel, wherein the zooming frame has a body and a lens holder pivotally connected to the body;

the body is drivable by the driving device to reciprocally move between a first position and a second position in the lens barrel;

the lens holder is pivoted between a third position and a fourth position on the body along with the body being reciprocally moved between the first position and the second position;

a lens group having a first lens sub-group and a second lens sub-group, wherein the first lens sub-group is provided on the body, and the second lens sub-group is provided on the lens holder; and

a rod;

wherein the zooming frame has a gear train provided at where the lens holder is pivotally connected to the body;

when the body of the zooming frame is moved from the second position to the first position, the rod pushes and turns the gear train to pivot the lens holder from the fourth position back to the third position, and the first lens holder then stays at the third position.

17. The zoom lens of claim **16**, wherein the body of the zooming frame has a hole thereon, and the first lens sub-group is located at the hole; when the lens holder is at the third position, the second lens sub-group is away from the hole; when the lens holder is at the fourth position, the second lens sub-group precisely aligns with the hole.

18. The zoom lens of claim **16**, further comprising a torsion spring, which respectively pushes against the body and the lens holder with two opposite ends thereof; wherein the lens holder is therefore exerted by a force to pivot from the third position toward the fourth position.

19. The zoom lens of claim **16**, wherein the driving device includes a first lens barrel, a second lens barrel, a third lens barrel, a fourth lens barrel, and a fifth lens barrel; the second lens barrel is provided in the first lens barrel, and is rotatable in the first lens barrel; the third lens barrel is provided in the second lens barrel, and is reciprocally movable in the second

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lens barrel; the fourth lens barrel is provided in the second lens barrel between the second lens barrel and the third lens barrel, and is reciprocally movable in the second lens barrel; the fifth lens barrel is provided in the fourth lens barrel, and is movable relative to the fourth lens barrel; the zooming frame is provided in the third lens barrel; the body of the zooming frame is reciprocally moved between the first position and the second position along with the second lens barrel being rotated.

20. A zoom lens, comprising:

a driving device having at least a lens barrel;

a zooming frame located in the lens barrel, wherein the zooming frame has a body and a lens holder pivotally connected to the body;

the body is drivable by the driving device to reciprocally move between a first position and a second position in the lens barrel;

the lens holder is pivoted between a third position and a fourth position on the body along with the body being reciprocally moved between the first position and the second position; and

a lens group having a first lens sub-group and a second lens sub-group, wherein the first lens sub-group is provided on the body, and the second lens sub-group is provided on the lens holder;

the driving device includes a first lens barrel, a second lens barrel, a third lens barrel, a fourth lens barrel, and a fifth lens barrel;

the second lens barrel is provided in the first lens barrel, and is rotatable in the first lens barrel;

the third lens barrel is provided in the second lens barrel, and is reciprocally movable in the second lens barrel;

the fourth lens barrel is provided in the second lens barrel between the second lens barrel and the third lens barrel, and is reciprocally movable in the second lens barrel;

the fifth lens barrel is provided in the fourth lens barrel, and is movable relative to the fourth lens barrel;

the zooming frame is provided in the third lens barrel; and the body of the zooming frame is reciprocally moved between the first position and the second position along with the second lens barrel being rotated.

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